

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

086909  
965332

A force, weight or position sensor unit and sensor element. [Is disclosed in a first embodiment.] In a second embodiment, the sensor element of the first embodiment is incorporated into an apparatus for microindentation hardness testing and surface imaging which allows immediate imaging of the surface subsequent to hardness testing. The sensor uses a multi-capacitor system having drive and pick-up plates mounted on an appropriate suspension system to provide the desired relative motion when a force is applied to the pick-up plate. The output signal is run through a buffer amplifier and synchronously demodulated to produce a signal proportional to force or displacement. The sensor element is mounted on a scanning tunneling microscope base and a sample mounted on the sensor. The force sensor is used for both measuring the applied force during microindentation or micro hardness testing and for imaging before and after the testing to achieve an atomic force microscope type image of the surface topography before and after indentation testing.

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 110: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described hereinabove, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" having an Express Mail mailing label number of:  
EM199863925US

in an envelope addressed to:  
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
on this 1st day of August, 1996  
NAWRACKI, ROONEY & SIVERTSON, P.A.  
By: Steven E. Dicke

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 110: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described hereinabove, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" having an Express Mail mailing label number of:  
TB576208897US

in an envelope addressed to:  
Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
on this 24 day of October, 1994  
NAWRACKI, ROONEY & SIVERTSON, P.A.  
By: Steven E. Dicke